

In re Patent Application Serial No. 09/599,269  
Amendment dated July 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of May 25, 2004

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**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A pleated filter cartridge for removing particulates from liquid, the pleated filter cartridge being of the type including a perforate core, a pair of endcaps, and an annular ~~non-woven~~ filter element around the core formed by substantially axially-parallel pleats of ~~at least one sheet of~~ non-woven filter material, the filter element having opposite ends each in sealing engagement with one of the endcaps, characterized in that the filter element consists of a single layer of the filter material and a mesh layer, the single-layer filter material is being a non-perforated non-woven material of flash-spun plexifilamentary high-density polyethylene fibrils, the filter material having a thickness of less than about 0.15 mm, a pressure drop of less than 4 psid at a flow rate of 10 gal/hr, and a filtration efficiency of at least 98% of 1-2 micron particulates at a pressure differential of 30 psid.
2. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the filter material has a pressure drop of less than about 1.5 psid at a flow rate of 10 gal/hr and the filtration efficiency is at least about 99% of 1-2 micron particulates at a pressure differential of 30 psid.
3. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 2 wherein the mean flow pore size of the filter material is greater than 4 microns while its nominal pore-size filtration rating is 1 micron.

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4. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 2 wherein the filter material has a Gurley Hill porosity rating no greater than about 5 sec/100cc.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the filter material has a thickness less than or equal to about 0.13 mm.
7. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the filter material has a basis weight of less than about 45 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 7 wherein the filter material has a thickness less than or equal to about 0.13 mm.
10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) The pleated filter cartridge of ~~claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein the mesh layer is between the filter material and the core.

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12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The pleated filter cartridge of ~~claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein the mesh layer is a low-density polyethylene.

14. (previously presented) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 13 wherein:

- the high-density polyethylene filter material has a softening temperature range;
- the polyethylene mesh has a softening temperature range lower than the lower end of the softening temperature range of the high-density polyethylene filter material; and
- the polyethylene mesh is tack-point interconnected to the filter material without having compromised the filter material.

15. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 14 wherein the mesh layer and filter material were tack-point interconnected prior to pleating.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 14 wherein the softening temperature range of the polyethylene mesh is within the range of 170-195° F.

18-19. (canceled)

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20. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 1 further including a containment sleeve of polyethylene netting enclosing the annular filter element.

21. (original) The pleated filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein the core and the endcaps are of polyethylene.

22-31. (canceled)